

The Early History of *Pancalia latreillella* Curtis, 1830 (Lep.: Cosmopteriginae) in Britain

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Meyrick (1928) wrote in respect of this species: "Locality of Curtis' example unrecorded, other records doubtful; C. and S. Europe; 5, 6". Curtis (1824-40), after describing the type in 1830, added: "I forget its locality". Stainton (1854) said: "A specimen is in Mr. Curtis's collection; and I have seen a few others". Later, Stainton (1859) stated that it had occurred at Lewes, Pembury, Epping, and near Edinburgh.

After the death of Curtis in 1862, his collection was purchased from his widow and went to Australia, where it is now housed in the National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne. Recently I wrote to the Curator of Insects, Dr. A. Neboiss, of the Entomology Department, and enquired if he could give me any information concerning *latreillella*. His reply was that there is one specimen, labelled the lectotype, in the Curtis collection. The Notebook entry is as follows: "18 June 1842 nr. Mickleham J. W. Douglas; June 1827 over " —"? Mountain, Ambleside J.C. and J.C.D." Curtis and Dale had visited Ambleside between the middle and the end of June 1827, especially to look for *Erebia epiphron*, which had been discovered there in 1810. Among the mountains visited was the "Red Skrees", and it is possible that the type of *latreillella* was taken there.

The record for Epping probably relates to the Doubleday collection, but owing to the fact that nearly all the specimens are entirely without data, this cannot be checked with any degree of satisfaction. The Douglas collection is now in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). I enquired from Dr. Bradley whether any *latreillella* were there. His reply was that there are six specimens under this name, all labelled "Douglas Coll. (Mason 1906)". There is one doubtful record for Hayling Island, Hants., prior to 1900. In recent years the species has been found in some numbers in the Stroud district of Gloucestershire, and in Eire.

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